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| 09/838,239 | 04/20/2001 | Srikanth Natarajan | 10007591/020 | 9191 |

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| EXAMINER |
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SHAW, PELING ANDY

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2144

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS | 01/16/2007 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/838,239

Applicant(s)

NATARAJAN ET AL.

Examiner

Peling A. Shaw

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment received on 10/18/2006 has been entered into record. Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claims 1-8 are currently pending.
2. Applicant's submission filed on 05/05/2006 was entered. Claims 1 and 8 were amended.
3. Amendment received on 11/08/2005 was entered. Claims 1 and 8 were amended. Claims 1 and 8 were previously amended on 06/15/2005.

Priority

4. This application has no priority claim made. The filing date is 04/20/2001.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lecheler et al. (WO 00/49769), hereinafter referred as Lecheler, in view of Nelson et al. (US 5577252 A), hereinafter referred as Nelson.

- a. Lecheler shows (claim 1) a method of managing a computer network, comprising the steps of: assigning to at least one collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides; receiving, in at least one management computer (Fig. 3, item 92: network node manager), information from the at least one collection computer that

includes the management domain identifier; and maintaining within the at least one management computer a database (Fig. 3, item 84: mapping table) of the information accessed using the management domain identifier (Title, Abstract, Figures 1 and 3, page 10 lines 7-19, page 13 lines 20-23). Lecheler does not explicitly show (claim 1) a trust flag to indicate a binary setting and deciding whether the at least one management computer should resolve a hostname being reported by the at least one collection computer based on the binary setting of the trust flag. However Lecheler does show exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the method of managing a computer network with additional features such as the trust/security feature (page 5 lines 2-11, page 19 lines 11-17).

- b. Nelson shows (claim 1) a trust flag to indicate a binary setting and deciding whether the at least one management computer should resolve a hostname being reported by the at least one collection computer based on the binary setting of the trust flag (column 1 line 54-column 2 line 2; column 6 line 62-column 7 line 18; column 9 lines 1-23; column 11 line 65- column 12, line 2: name resolution based upon trust) in an analogous art for the purpose of implementing secure name servers in an object-oriented system.
- c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Lecheler's functions of remote management of private networks having duplicate network addresses with Nelson's functions of name resolution based on trust.

- d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include the name resolution based on trust technique per Nelson's teaching in management systems per Lecheler (lines 2-11 on page 5) and Nelson (column 1, lines 14-21)'s teaching.
- e. Regarding claim 2, Lecheler shows wherein the step of assigning comprises the step of: establishing at least one management domain, wherein each management domain includes at least one collection computer (Figures 1 and 3, page 8 lines 10-31, page 12 lines 7-20).
- f. Regarding claim 3, Lecheler shows wherein the management domain identifier is a domain name of the management domain (page 10 line 26-page 11 line 13).
- g. Regarding claim 4, Lecheler shows wherein the information is network topology information (page 13 lines 14-23, page 15 lines 13-28, page 18 lines 3-11).
- h. Regarding claim 7, Lecheler shows comprising the step of: managing, by each collection computer, at least one network object; and resolving, by each collection computer, a network address of each network object into a resolved network address included in the information received at the at least one management computer (page 10 lines 7-19, page 15 lines 13-28).
- i. Claim 8 is of the same scope as claim 1. It is rejected for the same reasons as for claim 1.

Together Lecheler and Nelson disclosed all limitations of claims 1-4 and 7-8. Claims 1-4 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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6. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pulsipher et al. (US 5948055 A), hereinafter referred as Pulsipher, in view of Nelson et al. (US 5577252 A), hereinafter referred as Nelson.

- a. Pulsipher shows (claim 1) a method of managing a computer network, comprising the steps of: assigning to at least one a collection computer a management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides; receiving, in at least one management computer, information from the at least one collection computer that includes the management domain identifier and a trust flag relating to the management domain identifier; and maintaining within the at least one management computer a database of the information accessed using the management domain identifier (Figures 2-5, column 3 lines 16-32, column 7 lines 41-57, column 8 lines 7-24, column 10 lines 13-25). Pulsipher does not explicitly show (claim 1) a trust flag to indicate a binary setting and deciding whether the at least one management computer should resolve a hostname being reported by the at least one collection computer based on the binary setting of the trust flag. However Pulsipher does show exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the method of managing a computer network with additional features such as the trust/security feature (column 17 lines 38-51, column 31 lines 50-61).
- b. Nelson shows (claim 1) a trust flag to indicate a binary setting and deciding whether the at least one management computer should resolve a hostname being reported by the at least one collection computer based on the binary setting of the trust flag (column 1 line 54-column 2 line 2; column 6 line 62-column 7 line 18; column 9 lines

1-23; column 11 line 65- column 12, line 2: name resolution based upon trust) in an analogous art for the purpose of implementing secure name servers in an object-oriented system.

- c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Pulsipher's functions of distributed internet monitoring system with Nelson's functions of name resolution based on trust.
- d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include the name resolution based on trust technique per Nelson's teaching in management systems per Pulsipher (column 1, lines 50-59) and Nelson (column 1, lines 14-21)'s teaching.
- e. Regarding claim 2, Pulsipher shows wherein the step of assigning comprises the step of: establishing at least one management domain, wherein each management domain includes at least one collection computer (Figure 2, column 6 lines 11-19, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21).
- f. Regarding claim 3, Pulsipher shows wherein the management domain identifier is a domain name of the management domain (column 10 lines 13-25).
- g. Regarding claim 4, Pulsipher shows wherein the information is network topology information (Abstract, Figures 2-3B, column 6 lines 52-64, column 7 lines 41-57).
- h. Regarding claim 5, Pulsipher shows wherein the step of receiving comprises the steps of: receiving first information from a first collection computer, wherein the first information includes a first network address and a first management domain identifier; receiving second information from a second collection computer, wherein

the second information includes a second network address and a second management domain identifier, wherein the second network address is identical to the first network address; comparing the second network address to the first network address using the second management domain identifier and the first management domain identifier; assigning a network element associated with the second network address as a primary network element when the second network address belongs to a different management domain than the first network address; and assigning the network element associated with the second network address as a secondary network element when the second network address belongs to a same management domain as the first network address (Figure 2, Figures 8A-8B, Figures 13-15B, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21, column 10 lines 13-25, column 11 lines 20-31, column 15 lines 33-48).

- i. Regarding claim 6, Pulsipher shows wherein the step of maintaining comprises the step of: using management domain identifiers to consolidate network topology information from collection computers having identical network addresses and belonging to different management domains (Figure 2, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21).
- j. Regarding claim 7, Pulsipher shows comprising the step of: managing, by each collection computer, at least one network object; and resolving, by each collection computer, a network address of each network object into a resolved network address included in the information received at the at least one management computer (column 9 line 56-column 10 line 7, column 10 lines 13-25, column 11 lines 8-31).

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- k. Claim 8 is of the same scope as claim 1. It is rejected for the same reasons as for claim 1.

Together Pulsipher and Nelson disclosed all limitations of claims 1-8. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/18/2006 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.
- a. Applicant has amended the independent claims 1 and 8 and described in 1st paragraph on page 7 of current amendment that the resolution of hostname is based on the trust flag which indicates if the hostname is trust worthy per applicant's original specification (paragraph 30). That is consistent with examiner's previous statements in the claim rejections under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph of office action dated 07/24/2006. With these current amended claim changes, the previous claim rejections under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph in the office action dated 07/24/2006 are withdrawn.
 - b. Applicant has argued that Nelson's name resolution based on "trusts" (column 1, line 48-column 2, line 2) does not relate to resolving a hostname should a trust status indicate the need for a resolution. Lecheler has shown (lines 7-11 on page 11) to resolve a unique identification of a managed device based per domain. Lecheler and Nelson are further combined to show that a trust method (Nelson) can be used for cross entities name passing and resolution and if not trust-worthy is detected, further name resolution (Lecheler)/authentication (Nelson) is needed.
 - c. It is the Examiner's position that Applicant has not submitted claims drawn to limitations, which define the operation and apparatus of Applicant's disclosed invention in manner, which distinguishes over the prior art. As it is Applicant's right to claim as broadly as possible their invention, it is also the Examiner's right to

interpret the claim language as broadly as possible. It is the Examiner's position that the detailed functionality that allows for Applicant's invention to overcome the prior art used in the rejection, fails to differentiate in detail how these features are unique (see items a-d in section 5 and items a-d in section 6). As Lecheler and Pulsipher has shown the name resolution based upon domain. Nelson has further shown the need to check the trust-worthy on passing name crossing over entities and if check failed, further authentication on the originator is required. It is clear that Applicant must be able to submit claim language to distinguish over the prior arts used in the above rejection sections that discloses distinctive features of Applicant's claimed invention. It is suggested that Applicant compare the original specification and claim language with the cited prior art used in the rejection section above or the Remark section below to draw an amended claim set to further the prosecution.

- d. Failure for Applicant to narrow the definition/scope of the claims and supply arguments commensurate in scope with the claims implies the Applicant's intent to broaden claimed invention. Examiner interprets the claim language in a scope parallel to the Applicant in the response. Examiner reiterates the need for the Applicant to more clearly and distinctly define the claimed invention.

Remarks

8. The following pertaining arts are discovered and not used in this office action. Office reserves the right to use these arts in later actions.

- a. Sugauchi et al. (US 6041349 A) System management/network correspondence display method and system therefor

Conclusion

9. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Refer to the enclosed PTO-892 for details.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peling A. Shaw whose telephone number is (571) 272-7968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

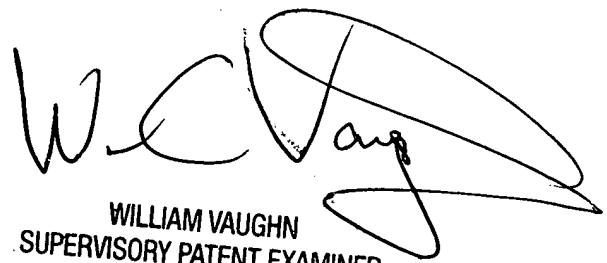
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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